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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/709,814

05/28/2004

Alan Bauer

27475/07445

3813

24024 7590 06/30/2008
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EXAMINER

WUJCIAK, ALFRED J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3632

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,814	Applicant(s) BAUER, ALAN	
	Examiner Alfred Joseph Wujciak III	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20,31-35 and 37-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 32 and 38-43 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20,31,33-35 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This is the non-final Office Action for the serial number 10/709,814, BATHROOM ACCESSORY MOUNTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF MOUNTING, filed on 5/28/04.

The allowability of claims 17, 19-20, 31 and 33-35 and 37 have been reconsidered and withdrawn in view of rejection under US Patent # 5,590,974 to Yang.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

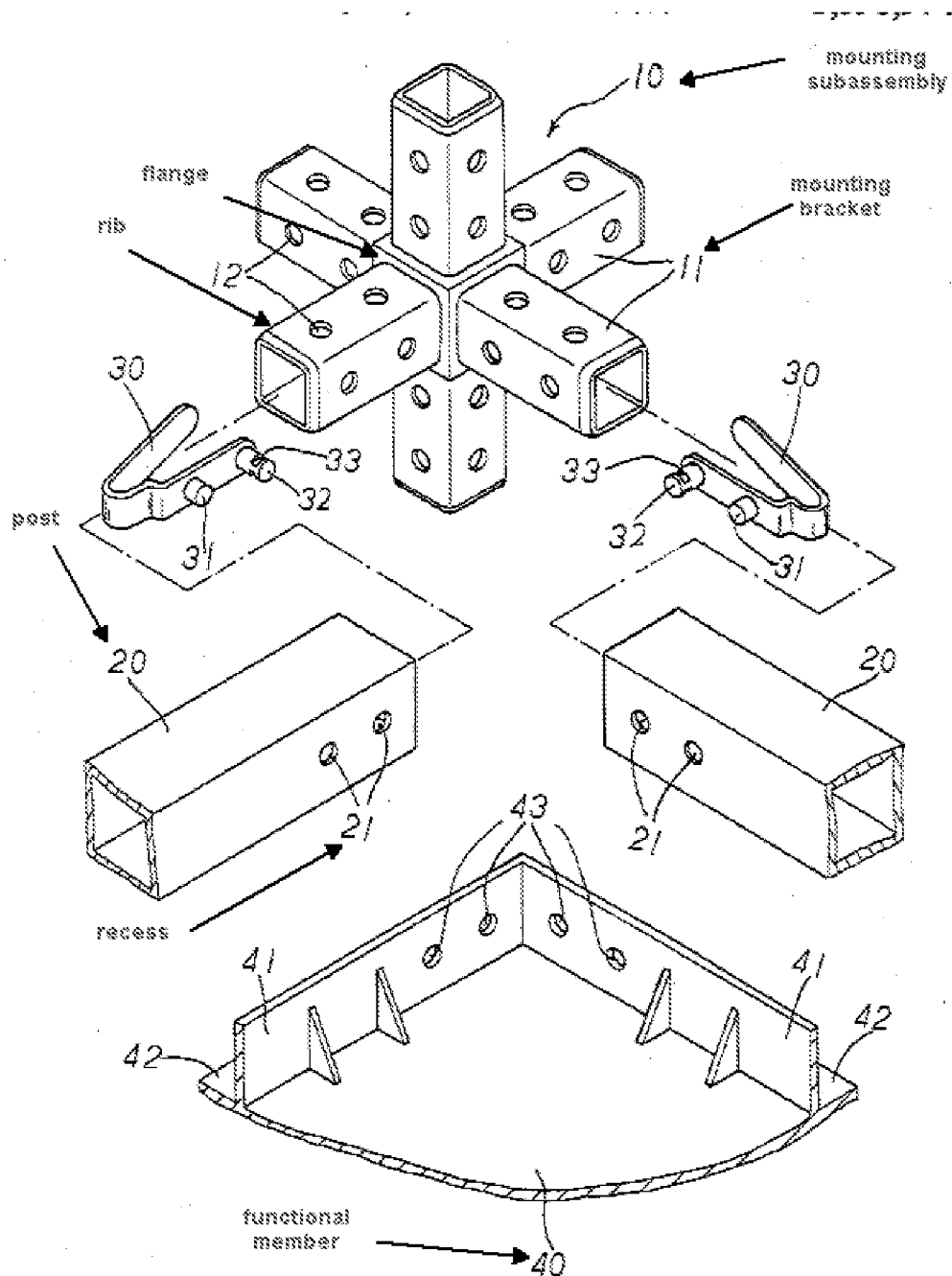
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 17, 20, 31, 33, 35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent # 5,590,974 to Yang.

Yang teaches an accessory comprising a mounting assembly (10) and a post (20). The mounting assembly comprises a mounting bracket (11). The post is connected to the mounting subassembly by alignment of the post with the mounting subassembly and movement of the post along the mounting subassembly solely in an axial direction until an extended portion (31) of a snap flange (30) located on an outer surface of the mounting bracket snaps into a recess (21) formed through the post. The extended portion of the snap flange is being engageable from the exterior of the post to release the connection of the post to the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket comprises an axially extending body portion and one rib located thereon. The accessory further comprises a functional member (40) connected to the post. The snap flange is located on

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the axially extending body portion and the snap flange includes a camming surface (rounded top of element 31) that engages an inner surface of the post to flex the snap flange.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang.

Yang teaches the post and the mounting bracket including an axially extending body portion but fails to teach the post and mounting bracket are a generally toroidal portion with inner diameter of the post slightly larger than the outer diameter of the axially extending body portion. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified shape of post and mounting bracket to toroidal portion to provide designer's preference to improve the appearance of the accessory.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32 and 38-43 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/12/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner withdrew the allowability claims of 17-20, 31, 33-35 and 37 because Yang teaches all elements that the examiner overlooked from the previous office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joey Wujciak whose telephone number is (571) 272-6827 or send e-mail to the examiner at Joey.Wujciak@uspto.gov. The fax machine telephone number for the Technology Center is (571) 273 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Primary examiner
A. Joseph Wujciak III
Art Unit 3632
6/20/08

/Alfred Joseph Wujciak III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3632